

**Statement**  
**by Dr. Graham Allison**  
**before the Committee on Homeland Security**  
**Subcommittee on the Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack**  
**House of Representatives\***  
**April 19, 2005**

**The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office**

1. Were President Bush and Senator Kerry correct during the first presidential debate of last fall's campaign when they answered the moderator's question "what is the single most serious threat?" Both answered: nuclear terrorism. They answered correctly.
2. In a serious strategy to prevent nuclear terrorism, where is the point of greatest leverage? Answer: locking down and eliminating weapons and materials at the source. In Senator Sam Nunn's felicitous formulation, "Acquiring weapons and materials is the hardest step for terrorists to take, and the easiest for us to stop. By contrast, every subsequent step in the process is easier for the terrorists to take, and harder for us to stop."
3. Where does improved technological capability for detection and identification of the source of nuclear weapons or fissile material rank in a multi-layered, 360 degree strategy for preventing nuclear terrorism? Answer: while not the most important, nonetheless an important layer in any serious multi-layered defense.

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\* Graham Allison is Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University. He served as Special Advisor to the Secretary of Defense under President Reagan and as Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Clinton.